

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 20-23 have been canceled by this amendment.

Initially, regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 25, 2007, Applicants note that the Examiner has not supplied Applicants with an initialed and signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therewith. Accordingly, in the next Office paper, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner provide an initialed and signed copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Regarding claims 20 and 23, Applicants note that the Examiner has rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 20 and 23. In addition, as noted above, claims 21 and 22 have also been canceled by this amendment.

Regarding claims 1 and 19, Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated in the Office Action that these claims are allowed.

In addition, regarding the specification, Applicants note that a minor typographical error in the specification is being corrected herein. In particular, Applicants note that in the previous response filed on June 11, 2008, the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 5 of the specification was amended by replacing the term "sift" with --shift--.

Within this paragraph shown in the previous response, however, the symbols ">" were inadvertently utilized rather than the symbols "<". As shown in the application as originally filed, the symbols "<" should have been used therein (see specification at page 12, lines 5-6).

Accordingly, the specification is being amended herein so as to properly indicate that the paragraph on page 12, lines 5-6 of the specification should read as follows: "Here, "<<" means a bit shift to the left direction. In other words, "<<7" means "×(2 to the 7th power)."

In view of the above, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Shinya KADONO et al.

/Kenneth W. Fields/

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